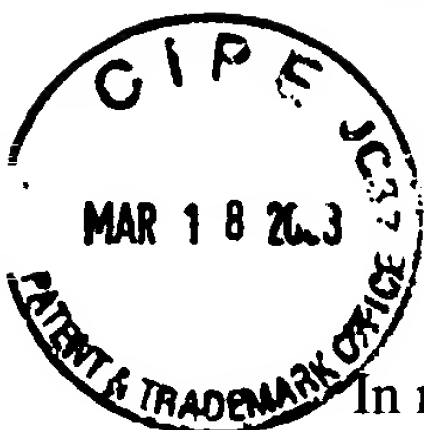


03500.012641

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

MASATO YAMANOBE, ET AL.

Application No.: 09/041,639

Filed: March 13, 1998

For: IMAGE-FORMING APPARATUS

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Examiner: A. Patel

Group Art Unit: 2879

March 18, 2003

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND FOURTH  
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

The present Preliminary Amendment has been prepared in accordance with the Revised Format established by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, as permitted in the Pre-OG Notice entitled "Amendments in a Revised Format Now Permitted."

Prior to examination on the merits, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows: